

0.001-5 parts by weight of a free radical or radiation type polymerization initiator,

b) subjecting the mixture to bulk polymerization, solution polymerization, suspension polymerization or emulsion polymerization to form a polymer gel, and

c) casting the polymer gel to shape, whereby the article has a water content of 90-99.75% when fully hydrated.

B² C 4 11. (Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the methacrylic acid is a dimethacrylate.

9 11. (Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the article prepared is a contact lens.

10 18. (Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the article prepared is a coating material.

B³ 11 19. (Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the article prepared is a solid article suitable for further manufacturing.

12 20. (Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the polymer is produced as a coating directly on other articles.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments and favorable reconsideration of the subject invention are respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Claim 16 has been cancelled and claims 9, 11 and 17-20